

Historical Sketch
of the
Township of
Biddulph



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Queen's University at Kingston

THE TOWNSHIP OF BIDDULPH

SHORT SKETCH OF MUNICIPAL HISTORY
AND OFFICIAL LIFE, WITH SOME OF
THE MOST IMPORTANT MUNICIPAL
EVENTS FROM THE PIONEER
DAYS OF 1830 TO 1912

WITH THE CONSOLIDATED BY-LAWS
OF THE TOWNSHIP



RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY

W. D. STANLEY
CLERK

Members of the Council of the Township of Biddulph

Adam Kingsley Hodgins, the present Reeve, served the Township as a member of the Council for three years as Councillor, five years as Deputy Reeve and eight years as Reeve, or a total of sixteen years.

Richard T. Raycraft, who has served as Councillor for the last five years and as Road Commissioner for No. 5 Division of the Township.

James Ryder, who has served as Councillor for the last four years and Road Commissioner for No. 4 Division of the Township.

Nassau Davis, who has served as Councillor for the last four years and Road Commissioner for No. 3 Division of the Township.

Caleb Ryan, who has served as Councillor for the last four years and Road Commissioner for No. 1 Division of the Township.

Municipal Officers of the Township of Biddulph

William D. Stanley, the present Clerk, has held that office for over 25 years, was a member of the Council for 12 years, and County Auditor for over 23 years, being now in his 38th year of service. He was the first Warden the Township of Biddulph ever had.

John Fox, the present Treasurer, has held that position for over 25 years.

Robert Henry Radcliffe, the present Assessor, has held that position for three years.

Richard Coursey is the present Collector, and is now in his third year.

Edmund Meredith, K.C., who has been the Township's Solicitor for 40 years, and during that time there has not been one dollar of a verdict recorded against the Township.

The Township of Biddulph



THE Township of Biddulph is situated in the northerly part of the County of Middlesex, having the Townships of Usborne and Blanshard on the north, the Township of McGillivray on the west, and the Townships of London and West Nissouri on the south, and lies about sixteen miles north of the City of London. It contains about 39,300 acres, exclusive of the village of Lucan, and formed a part of what was known as the "Huron tract," which extended from the County of Waterloo to the shores of Lake Huron, and which had come into the possession of the Canada Company for purposes of colonization. This Company had been originally promoted by John Galt to settle the Clergy Reserves, but meeting difficulties with these, it secured one million acres, exclusive of swamp lands, in the Huron tract, at 1s. 6d. per acre. In 1828, John Galt blazed a trail from Guelph to Goderich. One of the directors of this Company was John Biddulph, Esq., and from him the township secured its name.

Separation from the County of Huron

From its first organization, to the year 1865, the Township of Biddulph formed a part of the United Counties of Huron, Bruce and Perth. In the year 1865, when the late Robert H. O'Neil was Reeve, the townships of Biddulph and McGillivray separated from the County of Huron and were annexed to the County of Middlesex. Mr. James S. Smith was then member of Parliament for North Middlesex, and assisted in securing the necessary legislation.

At this time the indebtedness of the United Counties of Huron and Bruce—Perth in the meantime having withdrawn and formed into a separate county—was very large, incurred for the most part in building gravel roads and bonusing the Buffalo

and Lake Huron Railway. While Biddulph was still a part of the County of Huron, the London and Goderich Gravel Road was built from Elginfield to Goderich. The contract price through Biddulph was \$4,000 a mile, which afterward had to be considerably increased.

When the separation came, the assets and liabilities of the United Counties were fully investigated and arbitrated on. The Township arbitrator was Francis Evans Cornish, then an able barrister of the City of London, and afterwards of the City of Winnipeg, where he died. The County of Huron appointed Mr. Wood, then an able lawyer and afterwards a member of the Government of the Province of Ontario. The third arbitrator was Mr. T. M. Daly, a distinguished lawyer who afterwards served for a number of years as member for one of the ridings of the County of Perth, and also held a portfolio in the Dominion Cabinet. The amount of county debt awarded against the Township of Biddulph was \$18,996, payable in three payments of \$6,332 each, with interest at the rate of 6% per annum, an enormous amount, under the conditions then existing. However, it was met by the people in a heroic and noble spirit, and the payments as they fell due were promptly met. In 1875 the Township received out of the John Sandfield Macdonald surplus distribution the sum of \$6,714, which was turned over to the County of Huron in full satisfaction of the balance of the Township's indebtedness to them, and thus freed the Township of indebtedness of any kind whatsoever, which position has been held religiously ever since. The only debenture indebtedness that the Township has since been in any way responsible for was \$30,000 in common with the rest of the County of Middlesex for the House of Refuge and Industrial Farm at Strathroy. The present Clerk as County Auditor, had the satisfaction of cancelling those debentures twenty years thereafter.

Public Improvements

The first public roadway was a blaze in the dense forest that covered the Township. Next a road was chopped for the ox team and pole jumper. The swamps and waterholes were made passable by corduroy. The water-runs, streams



ADAM KINGSLEY HODGINS, REEVE

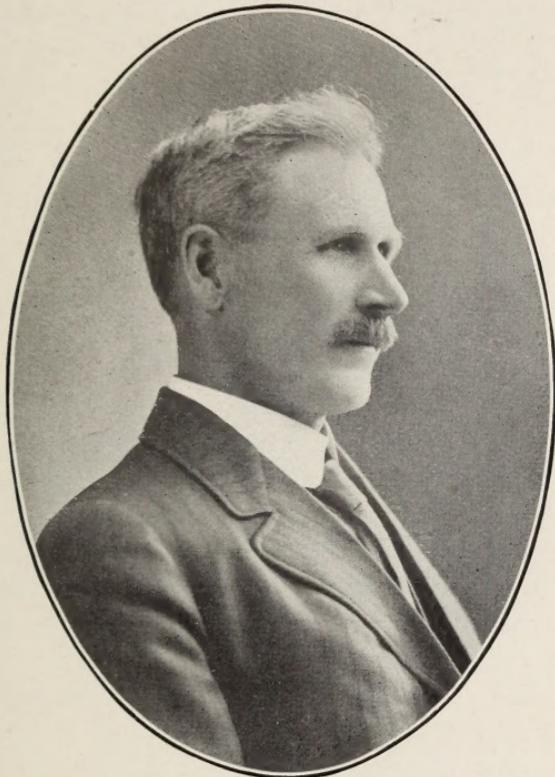
and rivers were bridged by logs, and later by wood culverts and bridges. The western portion of the Township is traversed by the river Aux Sauble, which intersects the highways at a large number of points, thus necessitating a large number of bridges, and the Township can now boast that nearly all their bridges and culverts are of steel, cement, or stone, and all this

has been accomplished without selling a debenture or creating a debt. In 1911 over \$7,000 was expended in permanent improvements on the roads and bridges without creating a debt. Truly Biddulph people and municipal men of the day have shown a courageous spirit, and faith in themselves, their township, their country, and in the God of Heaven. They have handed down to the present generation an unmortgaged municipality second to none in the Province of Ontario, now served with good roads, steel bridges, telephones, rural mail routes, and railways, with electrical light and power, generated at the historic Falls of Niagara, well in sight. Surely such progress is wonderful. A great deal of this favorable condition is the result of the economical and careful manner in which the municipal councils in the early days of our municipal history conducted the affairs of the Township. As a result of their prudent and wise counsels we of to-day are in a position to keep abreast of every modern improvement, especially in further improving our highways, and in taking advantage of any Government proposal, such as rural mail delivery, hydro-electric power, specialists in agriculture, or any other innovation that spells progress.

Fertility of the Soil

The Township of Biddulph is purely an agricultural township. The quality of the soil is unsurpassed in the Dominion of Canada for either grain or mixed farming, being a rich clay loam, well adapted for almost any kind of crop. The system of farming has of late undergone what might be styled as revolution. From the earliest days down to recent years farmers raised little else than grain, particularly wheat. This they have largely abandoned, having been educated in the science of successful farminig. While they still grow large quantities of grain, the coarser kinds are now fed on the farm, to hogs, cattle, and horses. The acreage of root crops and silo corn has

greatly increased, and taking it all together our system of farming has much improved. The Township feels quite elated at the prospect of having an expert in the science of agriculture located at Lucan, and expect to reap a rich benefit from such an appointment. There is certainly no municipality in the country where conditions are more favorable for such an advance.



R. T. RAYCRAFT, GRANTON

Nationality and Religion

In 1901 the census report gave the Township of Biddulph a population of 2,263, made up as follows:—Irish, 1,694; English, 415; Scotch, 129; and other nationalities, 25. In religion the inhabitants were recorded as: Roman Catholic, 625; Church of England, 735; Methodist, 631; Presbyterian, 259; Baptist, 11; and other denominations, 2.

The full returns of the 1911 census are not yet available, but they show a decline in our population of 321, doubtless caused by removals to our great West, and to the cities and towns of Ontario. According to their religion, our population is divided about as follows:—Roman Catholic, 536; Church of England, 630; Methodist, 535; Presbyterian, 223; and other denominations, 18. These figures give the Church of England a small lead, with the Methodists and Roman Catholics nearly equal, and the Presbyterians holding their own proportionately.

Pioneer Days and Early Settlement

The settlement of Biddulph dates back to about the year 1830, when one Frederick Stover, a Quaker from Norwich, Connecticut, U. S., started what was known as the "Wilberforce" or "Colored Settlement," situated where the Village of Lucan now stands, and a little to the North-west of it. He bought from the Canada Company, which owned the whole Huron tract, 800 acres of land, at \$1.50 per acre, and settled thereon a colony of colored people composed largely of refugee slaves, who had broken away from their cruel taskmasters in the United States, and crossed the lines and for the first time in their lives breathed the pure air of Freedom, and thus Biddulph became to them "the Home of the Free." In 1834 the friends in Connecticut ceased to support the colony and school that they had established, and threw the colony on its own resources. Mrs. Bell, who settled on the London and Goderich road in 1832, died a centenarian in November, 1878. She was the last survivor of the Wilberforce colony. There are very few descendants of this colony now in either Biddulph or the Village of Lucan.

The pioneer settlers of the Township, outside of the Frederick Stover colored settlement, were principally emigrants from Ireland, with a small mixture of Scotch and English. The Irish settlers were chiefly from the County Tipperary, and in religion were for the most part Church of England and Roman Catholic.

In a short time the tide of immigration flowed in, and concessions six, seven, eight, nine, ten and eleven were settled by Irish. The rest of the Township east of the eleventh concession was peopled by a mixture of Irish from the County of Cork, and English and Scotch. But of all the pioneer band that braved the hardships and vicissitudes of the early settler, only a very few



JAMES RYDER, COUNCILLOR

remain. Mr. Thomas Collins, of Clandeboye, has reached the ninety-eighth year of his life, and is yet hale and hearty. Mr. Albert Beatson, now in the West, is well up in his nineties, and is still in good health. Last year Dennis Carty died a centenarian, and recently Mr. James Grant, of Granton, passed away at the

age of ninety-seven. Those early settlers were a noble people, and left to their country a valuable asset in what they accomplished by patience and perseverance and industry, and some of them lived to see what in earlier years would have seemed to them miraculous—the wireless telegraph, the telephone at every man's door, the country spanned north and south and east and west by railways, and electricity playing an important part on every hand, and every prospect of having the work of the farm performed by that agency in the near future.

One of the most noteworthy of the early settlers was James Hodgins, who became a Colonel in the Huron militia. He came to this country from Tipperary, Ireland, in 1832, and settled on lot 39, con. 3, where he died. He was one of the first settlers of Biddulph. In the rebellion of 1837-8 he commanded the Sixth Battalion of Huron militia and loyally served his Flag and his Sovereign. His son John, who afterwards for years was a member of the Biddulph Township Council, served under his father in the same regiment.

Adam Hodgins came from Tipperary, Ireland, in 1831, and was, if not the first, one of the first settlers. He chopped down the forest and made himself a home, in which he died in 1886. He was a member of a party that were engaged in the first survey of the Huron tract.

Mr. W. H. Ryan was one of the most prominent figures in the municipal history of the Township. He came from Ireland when a young man, with his father, Francis Ryan, and first settled on lot 32, con. 3, in 1835. In 1837-8 he too did loyal and yeoman service for his Queen and country in the Simcoe cavalry. He assisted in the survey of the Huron tract, which was at that time an almost unbroken forest. Mr. Ryan was noted far and wide for his large-hearted hospitality. He in countless cases rose from his bed at all hours of the night to assist and administer to the wants of some poor, tired and belated traveller. It appeared to be his meat and drink to help the needy. He served for many years as Reeve, both in Biddulph

and London Townships, and his name will long be remembered by the good people of both townships.

Mr. John Atkinson, commonly known as "Long John," came to Biddulph from Tipperary in 1837, and settled on lot 16, con. 4. He also served in the rebellion of 1837-8, under Colonel Radcliffe, at London and Adelaide village. He at one



NASSAU DAVIS, COUNCILLOR

time belonged to the British regular army, but owing to an accident disabling his wrist he retired from the service with regret. In 1866, at the time of the Fenian invasion, he promptly tendered his services to his Queen, and desired to go out to defend that flag that was so dear to his heart. He was Reeve of the Township for many years and also represented it in the

County Council of Huron with marked distinction. He taught Public School No. 2 for some years, and was Public School Inspector for a time. He also took the census and assessed the Township in 1840. The taxes for that year amounted to £18 15s. His pay for the service was 18s. 4d. He died in 1884. Mr. Atkinson was properly regarded as one of Biddulph's most honorable and ablest citizens.

A very prominent figure in the early history of the Township was Patrick Flanagan. He came to what was afterwards called the Village of Ireland in 1844, and built what was then called a tavern, on the London and Goderich road. This place became known as "Flanagan's Corners." Mr. Flanagan was proverbial for his large fund of Irish wit, and the one that would get the laugh on "Paddy," as he was called, had to get up early in the morning. He too served in the rebellion of 1837-8, and raised a company of volunteers for Captain Field which rendered distinguished service. He was a most hospitable man, and like his contemporary, Mr. W. H. Ryan, was noted for his large-hearted liberality and his many beneficent acts. His son, John, was Treasurer of the Township for over twenty years, and sterling honesty was his chief characteristic.

In 1837-8 the settlers of Biddulph, although enduring all the drawbacks, deprivations and vicissitudes incidental to early pioneer life, sent their full quota of volunteers to defend our flag and maintain the integrity of the Empire. Four out of every five of the settlers volunteered in the cause of the Loyalists, and the fifth remained at home to fell browse to keep the cattle of the volunteers from starving. In 1866, at the time of the Fenian invasion, the Township of Biddulph raised as fine and brave a company of volunteers as could be found in all Canada, known as the "Lucan Blazers," under the leadership of Captain John Frank and Lieutenant W. H. Atkinson. The latter inherited all the martial ardour of his noble father, "Long John" Atkinson. In matters of patriotism Biddulph responded to every call, and may justly be termed the Township of the patriotic and brave, as well as the Home of the Free.

Not only in the cause of Freedom and Patriotism has our Township stood to the front, but in the peaceful arts of husbandry it has won distinction. At the Centennial, held in Philadelphia in 1876, in competition with the whole world, two of our citizens, Mr. Samuel Langford and Mr. Philip Brooks, carried off the Gold Medals and First Prizes for long-wooled sheep.



CALEB RYAN, COUNCILLOR

If they had rendered such substantial and signal service to their country in some other calling they might have been knighted by their Sovereign.

In the early history of the Township there were fifteen places where intoxicating liquors were sold. To-day this is all changed, and through the many christianizing influences that

surround our homes this traffic is now well-nigh abolished. Our people may now claim that in the highest and best sense of the word we are a temperance people.

Toll Gates

Those relics of Feudal times and emblems of the Dark Ages—Toll-gates—were handed down to the Township as an heirloom from the County of Huron on the one hand, and from the Proof Line and St. Mary's Gravel Road Company on the other. The people never took kindly to having their liberties of ingress and egress hampered by locks and bars, and resolutely determined on their abolition at the first favorable opportunity. One of those obstructions, situated at Mooresville, on the London and Goderich Road, was abolished by the Council of 1882, of which W. D. Stanley was Reeve, S. R. Hodgins, Deputy-Reeve, and Wm. Turner, John Hodgins ("Johnny Stout") and P. J. Dewan, Councillors. There was also a gate at each side of the Village of Lucan. These were abolished in 1884 by the Council, of which the following were members: W. D. Stanley, Reeve; T. C. Hodgins, Deputy-Reeve, and Wm. Hooper, P.J.Dewan, and James Hodgins ("Dublin"), Councillors. These gates were a thorn in the side of many people, and especially of the Village of Lucan, to whom they were a considerable nuisance. The Village offered the Township \$150 as part compensation for their abolition. This was accepted by the Township and the gates were reduced to kindling wood, and this road made free of charge to the travelling public, we trust for all time.

The great struggle of the abolition of the Toll-gates was with the Proof Line and St. Mary's Gravel Road Company in 1885. Under the Council of that year—W. D. Stanley, Reeve; C. C. Hodgins, Deputy-Reeve, and P. J. Dewan, Wm. Hooper and Wm. Hodgins ("Aunt Betty's William"), Councillors—legal proceedings were taken against the Company to compel them to put their road in a proper state of repair or to throw

off their gates. Mr. Codey, C.E., of Glencoe, was appointed by the Court to make an examination of the road and report on its condition, which he did. The report was altogether adverse to the Company. He ordered them to put their road in proper repair or to remove their gates at once. The Company resisted this order and the matter went to Court. The late Judge Street



W. D. STANLEY, CLERK OF THE TOWNSHIP, 1912

was at this time Solicitor for the Company and appeared before the Court in that capacity. The late Judge William Elliott was on the Bench waiting to hear argument when, at the last moment, the Company threw up the sponge and signed an agreement to remove the gates forthwith. Our neighbors to

the south of us endured the locks and bars of this Company for a quarter of a century longer before they were able to kill the "fatted calf" and immortalize the event with jubilation, feasting and song.

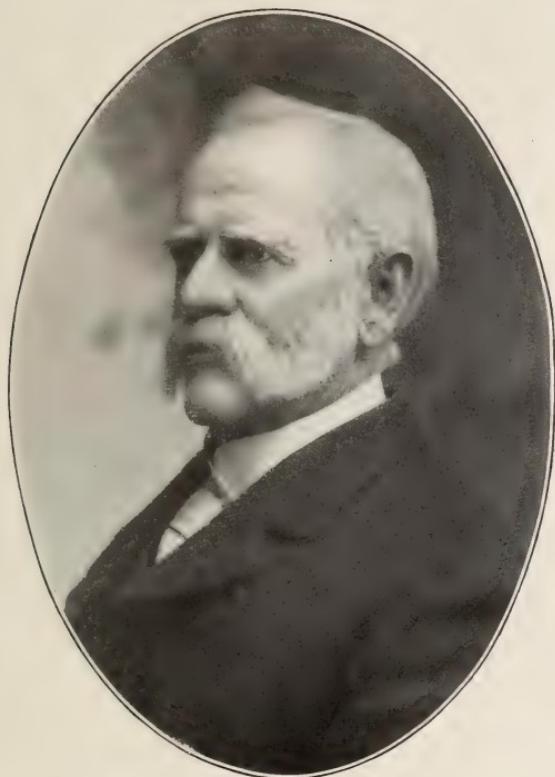
Freedom from Accidents on Public Roads

During the seventy years of the life of the Biddulph Council, the Township has been remarkably clear of accidents occurring on the highways. During that time there were only three cases of any note of damages to the person to pay. In 1882 Mrs. George Porte and Mr. James Dagg were driving on the road from Clandeboye to Lucan, and when near the Sauble bridge their horse became frightened at a pile of material laid on the side of the road to be used in rebuilding a culvert. The horse bolted and threw the occupants of the buggy over an embankment. Mrs. Porte had her leg broken and Mr. Dagg was also injured. Mrs. Porte accepted \$375 and Mr. Dagg \$75 in full compensation. In 1910 Wesley Stanley was hurt in a similar way, and \$100 settled his claim, making damages paid for injury to the person in the seventy years of municipal history totalling \$550, which it cannot but be said is extremely moderate.

Municipal Life and History

The Township of Biddulph was organized in January, 1842, with Colonel James Hodgins as District Councillor; Thos. Coursey, Clerk, and William Hodgins ("Big Billy"), Collector. The School Commissioners were James Porte, George Carter, Francis Ryan, William Grant, and John Atkinson. In the same year the first County Council of the United Counties, composed of one or two representatives from each Township, met in Goderich, with William Dunlop as appointed Warden and Daniel Lizars acting Clerk. Colonel Hodgins continued to represent the Township in the County Council many years. In 1850 Colonel Hodgins was chosen Reeve. In 1851 Mr. W. H. Ryan was elected Reeve, and in 1853 Mr. John

Atkinson ("Long John") succeeded to the position. In 1856 Mr. Thomas Hodgins ("Dublin") became Reeve, and in that year the Township was advanced by the County Council of Huron to the designation of a first-class Township, which meant an increased County rate.



JOHN FOX, TREASURER

In 1884 the present Clerk, W. D. Stanley, was elected Warden of the County of Middlesex by a unanimous vote. He had the distinguished honor of being the first Warden Biddulph ever had in either Huron or Middlesex. In 1896 Mr. C. C. Hodgins was elected Warden, and in 1912 the present Reeve, Mr. A. K. Hodgins, was practically elected to

that position. He was a tie with Mr. Buttery, of Strathroy, but lost by a casting vote.

The following is a partial list of the Municipal Councils and their officers since the Township was first organized as a municipality :—

1842—Colonel James Hodgins, commonly known as “Big Jim,” was the first District Councillor. Thomas Coursey, Clerk. William Hodgins (“Big Billy”), Assessor. Thomas Hodgins (“Dublin”), Collector. School Commissioners: James Porte, George Carter, Francis Ryan, Wm. Grant and John Atkinson.

1843—Nominations were held at the house of James Porte. The accounts of the previous year were passed. The following officers were appointed: Clerk, Thomas Coursey; Assessor, Wm. Hodgins; Wardens, John Coursey, Patrick Mooney, and John Hodgins. The amount raised in tax was £24 16s. 3d.

1844—Clerk, Colonel Hodgins; Collector, W. H. Ryan; Assessor, Wm. Hodgins (“Big Billy”). Samuel Langford, Wm. Morgan and John Lewis were appointed Poundkeepers.

1845—Clerk, Colonel Hodgins; Collector, W. H. Ryan; Assessor, Wm. Hodgins.

1846—Nominations were held at the house of Alexander McFalls, and the same officers were reappointed.

1847—Clerk, John Atkinson; Assessor, William Hodgins; Collector, W. H. Ryan.

1848—The nomination meeting was held at the tavern of Mr. George Hodgins, commonly known as “Tavern George.” Col. Hodgins was appointed Clerk; Robert Young, Assessor; and W. H. Ryan, Collector.

1849—Colonel James Hodgins was still District Councillor. Clerk, W. H. Ryan; Collector, William Hodgins; Assessor, Patrick Ryder.

1850—The Council this year was constituted according to the Municipal Institutions Act, an act that with slight modifica-



ROBERT HENRY RADCLIFFE, ASSESSOR

tions continues to this day. The nomination was held at "Tavern George" Hodgins'. Mr. James Porte was Returning Officer. The following were elected: Reeve, Colonel James Hodgins; Councillors, George Carter, Thomas W. Stanley,

John Coursey, Thomas Hodgins ("Dublin") and James Porte.
For several years following the records are very incomplete.

1851 and 1852—W. H. Ryan was Reeve.

1853 and 1854—John Atkinson, Reeve.

1855—John Hodgins, Reeve.

1856—Thomas Hodgins ("Dublin"), Reeve.

1857—Reeve, Thomas Hodgins ; Clerk, William Porte.

1858—Reeve, H. B. Hodgins ; Clerk, William Porte.

1859—Reeve, H. B. Hodgins ; Deputy-Reeve, B. Stanley ;
Clerk, William Porte.

1860 and 1861—Reeve, H. B. Hodgins ; Clerk, William
Porte.

1862—Reeve, H. B. Hodgins ; Councillors, John McFalls,
Timothy Toohey, John McLaughlin, and John Hodgins
("Stout") ; Clerk, William Porte.

1863—Reeve, H. B. Hodgins ; Councillors : R. H. O'Neil,
John McFalls, Timothy Toohey, and Charles Gowan.

1864—Reeve, R. H. O'Neil ; Councillors : John McFalls,
Bernard Stanley, Timothy Toohey, and Charles Gowan.

1865—Reeve, R. H. O'Neil ; Deputy-Reeve, John McFalls ;
Councillors : Bernard Stanley, Timothy Toohey, and Charles
Gowan.

1866—Reeve, R. H. O'Neil ; Councillors : Thos. Hodgins
("Dublin"), B. Stanley, T. Toohey, and C. Gowan.

1867—Reeve, R. H. O'Neil; Councillors: B. Stanley, T. Toohey, John Hodgins, Thomas Hodgins; Clerk, Joshua Thompson.

1868—Reeve, R. H. O'Neil; Deputy-Reeve, John Hodgins Councillors: Wm. Armitage, Wm. Porte, and Wm. Toohey.



RICHARD COURSEY, COLLECTOR

1869—Reeve, R. H. O'Neil; Deputy-Reeve, John Hodgins; Councillors: T. Murdock, John Dagg, and Benj. Blackwell.

1870—Same as 1869.

1871—Reeve, R. H. O'Neil; Deputy-Reeve, John Hodgins; Councillors: Isaac Garrett, John Dagg, and Martin Collison.

1872 and 1873—Reeve, John Hodgins; Deputy-Reeve, John Dagg; Councillors: M. Collison, I. Garrett, and Thomas Stanley; Clerk, Hiram Hodgins.

1874—Reeve, J. Hodgins; Deputy-Reeve, J. Dagg; Councillors: I. Garrett, M. Collison, and James Hodgins (“Dublin”).

1875—Reeve, John Hodgins; Deputy-Reeve, John Dagg; Councillors: James Hodgins, M. Collison, and W. D. Stanley.

1876—Reeve, John Hodgins; Deputy-Reeve, John Dagg; Councillors: S. Hodgins, Martin Collison, and W. D. Stanley.

1877 and 1878—Reeve, W. H. Ryan; Deputy-Reeve, W. D. Stanley; Councillors: S. R. Hodgins, P. J. Dewan, and Isaac Hodgins.

1879 and 1880—Reeve, W. H. Ryan; Deputy-Reeve, W. D. Stanley; Councillors, S. R. Hodgins, John Hodgins (“Stout”), and P. J. Dewan.

1881 and 1882—Reeve, W. D. Stanley; Deputy-Reeve, S. H. Hodgins; Councillors, John Hodgins, P. J. Dewan, and William Turner.

1883—Reeve, W. D. Stanley; Deputy-Reeve, W. Turner; Councillors: James Carter, Wm. Richardson, and P. J. Dewan.

1884—Reeve, W. D. Stanley; Deputy-Reeve, T. C. Hodgins; Councillors: James Hodgins, Wm. Richardson, and P. J. Dewan.

1885—Reeve, W. D. Stanley; Deputy-Reeve, C. C. Hodgins; Councillors: William Hooper, William Hodgins, and P. J. Dewan.

1886—Reeve, W. D. Stanley ; Deputy-Reeve, C. C. Hodgins ; Councillors : Wm. Hooper, P. J. Dewan, and Francis Davis.

1887—Reeve, C. C. Hodgins ; Deputy-Reeve, P. J. Dewan, Councillors : Albert Beatson, S. H. Hodgins, and F. Davis.



EDMUND MEREDITH, SOLICITOR

1888, 1889 and 1890—Reeve, C. C. Hodgins ; Deputy-Reeve, S. H. Hodgins ; Councillors : F. Davis, Wm. McGee and A. Beatson.

1891—Reeve, C. C. Hodgins ; Deputy-Reeve, T. C. Hodgins ; Councillors : A. Beatson, James Toohey, and A. K. Hodgins.

1892, 1893, 1894, 1895 and 1896—Reeve, C. C. Hodgins ; Deputy-Reeve, A. K. Hodgins ; Councillors : John Abbott, J. Toohey, and George Westman.

1897—Reeve, A. K. Hodgins ; Deputy-Reeve, George Westman ; Councillors : John Abbott, Francis A. Ryan, and James Toohey.

1898—Reeve, A. K. Hodgins ; Deputy-Reeve, George Westman ; Councillors : F. A. Ryan, Thomas Armitage, and James Toohey.

1899—Reeve, A. K. Hodgins ; Councillors : Thos. Armitage, George Westman, James Toohey, and F. A. Ryan.

1900—Reeve, A. K. Hodgins ; Councillors : F. A. Ryan, James Toohey, George Westman, and James B. Bryan.

1901—Reeve, S. H. Hodgins ; Councillors : F. A. Ryan, James Toohey, Thomas Armitage, and J. B. Bryan.

1902—Reeve, George Westman ; Councillors : F. A. Ryan, James Toohey, Thomas Armitage, and J. B. Bryan.

1903—Reeve, James Toohey ; Councillors : F. A. Ryan, J. B. Bryan, Thomas Armitage, and R. D. Stanley.

1904—Reeve, F. A. Ryan ; Councillors : T. Armitage, J. B. Bryan, R. D. Stanley, and Michael Breen.

1905 and 1906—Reeve, F. A. Ryan ; Councillors : Wm. Lewis, Thos. Armitage, M. Breen, and Richard T. Raycraft.

1907—Reeve, F. A. Ryan ; Councillors : A. K. Hodgins, M. Breen, Charles McMahon, and J. B. Bryan.



WM. H. RYAN, REEVE FOR MANY YEARS

1908—Reeve, J. B. Bryan; Councillors: A. K. Hodgins, C. McMahon, Thomas Armitage, and R. T. Raycraft.

1909, 1910, 1911 and 1912—Reeve, A. K. Hodgins; Councillors: Caleb Ryan, Nassau Davis, R. T. Raycraft, and James Ryder. The Officers of the Council for 1912 are: Clerk, W. D. Stanley; Assessor, R. H. Radcliffe; Collector, Richard Coursey; Treasurer, John Fox; Auditors, Patrick Breen, T. H. Coursey, and Michael Blake; Solicitor, Edmund Meredith, K.C.; Medical Health Officer, Dr. C. A. Lang.

Length of Service

In regard to length of service as a member of the Biddulph Council Board, the present Reeve, Mr. A. K. Hodgins, heads the list with a term of sixteen years. C. C. Hodgins served at the Council table for twelve years. W. D. Stanley was a member of the Council for twelve years; P. J. Dewan for eleven years; James Toohey for thirteen years; F. A. Ryan for eleven years; W. H. Ryan for about ten years; John Hodgins for about ten years; Geo. Westman for ten years; R. H. O'Neil for nine years; Henry Burke Hodgins for six years, and many others for nearly as long.

For the Clerkship the present occupant heads the list with a servitude of over twenty-five years. This, with twelve years as a member of the Board, makes in all over thirty-seven years of continuous service. Hiram Hodgins was Clerk for fifteen years; William Porte for nine years. James Porte was Clerk for a number of years, and also was a member of the Council for a time. Joshua Thompson held the position for a few years.

Mr. E. Meredith, K.C., of the City of London, a criminal lawyer with few equals in Ontario, as well as an authority on Municipal Law, has been the legal adviser of the Township for more than forty years, and during that time, by following his advice, the Township has never had a verdict recorded against it.

Other public servants with long terms of service include Dr. H. Lang as Medical Health Officer for twenty-five years; Mr. John Fox as Treasurer for twenty-one years; Mr. John Flanagan as Treasurer for twenty years; Mr. Jeremiah Lewis as Assessor for twenty years; Mr. G. W. Hogins as Collector, and Mr. W. J. Smyth as Assessor for several years.

The Village of Granton

The Village of Granton is situated on the Grand Trunk Railway, in the eastern part of the Township of Biddulph. Granton proper lies north of the railway, and the Village of Awmik on the south. These two villages are now merged into one, under the title of the Police Village of Granton.

Surveys of parts of farm lots No. 24, Con. 12, owned by the late James Grant, J. P.; No. 24, Con. 13, owned by the late Alexander Grant; No. 25, Con. 12, owned by the late Charles Foreman, and No. 25, Con. 13, owned by the late William Leavitt, were made by Alexander Niven, P. L. S., and registered in the Registry Office nearly fifty years ago. There was great difficulty found in securing a name for the Village. Those living on one side of the railway wanted it one name and those on the other side wanted it another. The above property-owners discussed the matter of the name at great length, but could come to no decision. At length the Grant brothers decided to perpetuate their name and registered their plans as the "Village of Granton." This gave mortal offence to the property-owners south of the railway, and as they could not utilize their own name as the Grant brothers had done, they selected the distinctive if not euphonious name of "Awmik," which is said to be the Indian name for Beaver. Perhaps owing to the scarcity of that animal in the vicinity this name fell into disuse.

The first store of the Village was built by one James Harrison. Next came the general stores of James S. Hodgins and C. M. Webb, Sr., who now lives in Toronto. James McIntosh, a cripple, ran a small store for a time in the early days.

The first tavern was built by James Armitage, and immediately sold to "Jimmy" McIntyre, who is still living in the City of Toronto. The next tavern was built by Samuel Hodgins, and still stands, but not as a place where intoxicating liquors are sold, but as a Temperance House. In the early days every tavern, store or Shop sold strong drink, but all this is now changed. The people of the Village and of No. 5 Division of the Township by an 80% vote sounded the death-knell of this traffic.

Granton is situated in the centre of one of the very best farming districts in the Province of Ontario, and in it a very large amount of business is transacted. The sidewalks are of a permanent character, being almost altogether granolithic. The streets are lighted by acetylene gas, which will in the near future be replaced by electricity. The whole village, with only two exceptions, signed a petition to the Hydro-Electric Commission, praying for Niagara Power to be transmitted to the Village, and received the warmest assurances that their petition would be answered at an early date.

Family Names of Early Settlers

The following are names of some of the families that settled in Biddulph between 1830 and 1840:— Abbott; Atkinson, a number of families; Armitage; Brooks; Bennett; Blackwell; Benn; Carter, a number of families; Coursey; Collison; Cooper; Casey; Cain; Collins; Culbert; Cobleigh; Carroll; Carrigan; Carty; Cameron; Davis; Dewan; Dagg; Dobbs; Donnelly; Dearness; Foreman; Guilfoyle; Glavin; Grace; Grant; Garrett; Gowan; a great number of families of Hodgins; Haskett; Hogan; Hennessey; Harlton; Heenan; Harrigan; Jameson; Jermyn; Kelly; Kennedy; Langford; Lewis; Lamphier; Little; Meagher; McRoberts; McIlhargey; McGee; McLaughlin; Mitchell; Mackay; McFalls; McMahon; McIntosh; Nangle; O'Shea; Powe; Parr; Quigley; Ryan, a number of families; Ryder; Stanley; Revington; Smyth; Sceli; Sul-

livan; Saddlier; Thompson; Turner; Toohey; Westman; Wilson; Whiteford; Whelihan; Whalen; and others. Of the above pioneers only a very few survive.

Township Hall

A Detachment of the Salvation Army came to Lucan, December 10, 1883, with Captain Happy Tom and Captain Bill in charge.

In 1884 they built and opened what was designated the Salvation Army Barracks. The building had a capacity of seating 400 people. About this time the Biddulph Township Council was considering the propriety of securing a Council Chamber of their own. Previous to this time the Council were migratory, holding their meetings at Mooresville, Granton, and for the most part at Clandeboye. This moving about was very unsatisfactory, so the Council thought they would end the matter at the first opportunity. This opportunity came in 1891, when the Army offered their barracks for sale. There were many offered to buy this property, but the Army selected the Biddulph Council as their choice. The deal was closed on the 12th day of March, 1891, for \$350, and the Council has had a permanent place for their meetings ever since. This Township Hall is now estimated to be good value for \$1,200 or \$1,500.

IT is the intention of the writer of the foregoing sketch, to continue the same in the near future, by writing up the Industrial, Educational, and Church-Life of the Township, from the first settlement to the present time, and to refer to many of our sons and daughters who have distinguished themselves in some of the most important positions of honor and trust in this and other countries.
